

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 19, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-66 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66 are independent claims. Claims 1-66 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-31, 34-38, 40-41, 44-46, 48-49, 52-53, 55-56, 59-60, and 65-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,748 of Knotts ("Knotts") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0027572 of Karlsson et al. ("Karlsson"). With regard to independent claims 1, 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66, the Office Action took the position that Knotts discloses all of the elements of the claims except "wherein the message comprises roaming information about the user equipment." The Office Action supplied Karlsson to remedy this deficiency of Knotts. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-18 depend, is directed to an apparatus including a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system. The apparatus also includes a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Claim 19, upon which claims 20-36 and 61-62 depend, is directed to a method including providing a multimedia messaging service in a telecommunications system comprising a first system entity configured to provide multimedia messaging service to a user equipment connected to a network of the system, and a second system entity configured to provide a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The method also includes sending a message from the first system entity to the second system entity. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Claim 37, upon which claims 38-44 depend, is directed to a telecommunications system element including providing means for providing multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network. The system also includes sending means for sending a message to a system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Claim 45, upon which claims 46-59 and 63-64 depend, is directed to a value added service providing element including providing means for providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network via a multimedia messaging service that is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The value added service providing element also includes receiving means for receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Claim 60 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium comprising a computer program set, wherein the execution of the program set in a computer connected to a telecommunications system causes the computer to execute providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network of a telecommunications system via a multimedia messaging service that is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The execution of the program set in the computer connected to the telecommunications system also causes the computer to execute receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Claim 65 is directed to a system including a first system entity means for providing multimedia messaging service to a user equipment connected to a network of the system. The system also includes a second system entity means for providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The system further includes sending means for sending a message from the first system entity means to the second system entity means. The message includes roaming information about user equipment.

Claim 66 is directed to a method including providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system. The method also includes providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The method further includes sending a message from a first system

entity to a second system entity. The message includes roaming information about the user equipment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Knotts and Karlsson fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Knotts generally relates to an inter-carrier messaging service providing a “phone number only experience.” The “phone number only experience” aspect of Knotts is so central to Knotts discussion that it appears in the title, the abstract, both paragraphs of the summary of the invention (column 4, lines 49-67), the first two paragraphs of the detailed description (column 5, lines 44-55), and each of Knotts’ independent claims.

As Knotts explains at column 5, lines 44-55, Knotts provides a phone number only messaging experience to subscribing customers using native Short Messaging Service (SMS) Inter-Carrier Messaging, as opposed to e-mail based messaging.

Claim 1, in direct contrast, recites: “a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system.” Applicants respectfully submit that Knotts fails to disclose or suggest at least this element of claim 1.

The Office Action took the position that this element is disclosed by Knotts at Figure 7, items 200, 250, and/or 270, and “2-Way SMS.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

As the Office Action essentially admitted, Knotts merely discloses a short message service (column 1, lines 17-18). Short Message Service (SMS) is an entirely different service from multimedia messaging service (MMS). An SMS allows transmission of

short messages between communication devices (column 1, lines 42-44), but SMS cannot transmit multimedia messages. Thus, SMS cannot serve as a multimedia messaging service. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Knotts fails to disclose or suggest at least “a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system.” It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites: “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service.” Applicants respectfully submit that Knotts fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1. Because Knotts fails to disclose a multimedia messaging service, Knotts necessarily fails to show providing a value added service by such a multimedia messaging service. Thus, for this additional reason, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

The Office Action cited column 6, lines 39-43, of Knotts for the “value-added service” mentioned therein. However, Applicants respectfully note that claim 1 recites that the value added service is supplied via the multimedia messaging service. In Knotts, in contrast, the SMS (Knotts calls it “An Inter-Carrier Messaging Service”) is itself the “value-added service.” Thus, Knotts clearly does not disclose any value-added service being transmitted via any kind of messaging service. Accordingly, for this additional reason, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Moreover, claim 1 further recites that the first system entity is configured to send a message comprising roaming information to the second system entity. Because Knotts does not disclose a first or second system entity corresponding to the claimed first and second system entities (*i.e.* “providing a multimedia messaging system” and “providing a value added service ... via the multimedia messaging system”) no exchange of messages of any kind between such entities is described in Knotts. Thus, for this additional reason Knotts fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1.

With regard to the feature, “wherein the message comprises roaming information about the user equipment,” the Office Action has acknowledged that Knotts fails to disclose or suggest this feature. The Office Action, however, cited Karlsson to remedy Knotts deficiency in this respect. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Knotts and Karlsson fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Karlsson generally relates to a method and system for primary paging location of a mobile terminal. Karlsson, like Knotts, is completely silent as to a multimedia messaging service. Accordingly, Karlsson cannot remedy any of the above-identified deficiencies of Knotts with regard to multimedia messaging services.

In addition, Karlsson is silent as to any kind of value added service, and, thus, cannot remedy Knotts deficiency regarding provision of a value added service via a messaging service.

Thus, Karlsson's discussion in paragraph [0048] that the MSC can send roaming information to the HLR cannot remedy the numerous deficiencies noted above, or suggest in any way that a first system entity and second system entity as claimed (*i.e.* "providing a multimedia messaging system" and "providing a value added service ... via the multimedia messaging system") exchange such information. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the combination of Knotts and Karlsson fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66 each have their own scope, but each recite similar features, and are patentable over the combination of Knotts and Karlsson for similar reasons. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-18, 20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-31, 34-36, 38, 40-41, 44, 46, 48-49, 52-53, 55-56, and 59 depend respectively from, and further limit, claims 1, 19, 37, and 45. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that each of claims 2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-18, 20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-31, 34-36, 38, 40-41, 44, 46, 48-49, 52-53, 55-56, and 59 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of Knotts and Karlsson. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-18, 20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-31, 34-36, 38, 40-41, 44, 46, 48-49, 52-53, 55-56, and 59 be withdrawn.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that combination of Knotts and Karlsson, as proposed by the Office Action, is not motivated, taught, or suggested by the prior art. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Knotts and Karlsson is improper hindsight reconstruction, and every rejection based on that combination should be withdrawn.

The Office Action stated that the motivation for combining the feature “the MSC-A/VLR sends an update subscriber data message that includes the new roaming area information of the mobile terminal to the HLR/GLR” in paragraph [0048] of Karlsson with the disclosure of Knotts would be “in order to reduce paging congestion in the network.”

Although the quoted aspect of Karlsson’s complete invention “in order to reduce paging congestion in the network” is mentioned in Karlsson’s abstract, there is no indication that the feature selected by the Office Action for combination with Karlsson will produce that effect. Indeed, there is nothing about “the MSC-A/VLR sends an update subscriber data message that includes the new roaming area information of the mobile terminal to the HLR/GLR” that would seem, on its face, to reduce paging congestion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the particular feature selected by the Office Action would not be selected by one of ordinary skill in the art without the benefit of Applicants’ disclosure.

It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the combination is improper hindsight reconstruction, of the kind prohibited by the Federal Circuit. Thus, it is respectfully

requested that all the rejections relying on the combination of Knotts and Karlsson be withdrawn.

Claims 6-7, 14-15, 24-25, 32-33, 42-43, 50-51, 57-58, and 61-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knotts in view of Karlsson and further in view of Official Notice. The Office Action used Official Notice to supply various deficiencies of the combination of Knotts and Karlsson with regard to the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and the taking of Official Notice.

Claims 6-7, 14-15, 24-25, 32-33, 42-43, 50-51, 57-58, and 61-64 depend respectively from, and further limit claims 1, 19, 37, and 45. The deficiencies of the combination of Knotts and Karlsson with regard to claims 1, 19, 37, and 45 is discussed above, and the Official Notice does not address the above-identified deficiencies of the combination of Knotts and Karlsson even with the benefit of the Official Notice. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that each of claims 6-7, 14-15, 24-25, 32-33, 42-43, 50-51, 57-58, and 61-64 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the combination of Knotts and Karlsson. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6-7, 14-15, 24-25, 32-33, 42-43, 50-51, 57-58, and 61-64 be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully traverse each taking of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the further limitations identified by the Office Action as “very well known” were not “very well known,” and it is respectfully requested that the Office Action provide evidence.

For example, it is respectfully submitted that it was not “very well known” to have a second system entity as claimed (*i.e.* providing a value added service via a multimedia messaging service) encrypt and decrypt at least part of the content of at least one multimedia message to be delivered to the user equipment according to roaming information. Each of the other takings of Official Notice are respectfully traversed, and it is respectfully requested that evidence be provided in support of the Office Action’s position that these features are “very well known,” or that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knotts in view of Karlsson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,917,813 of Elizondo (“Elizondo”). The Office Action took the position that Knotts and Karlsson disclose all of the elements of the claims except “the roaming information comprises an address of a switching centre which the user equipment is using” and “the second entity is configured to determine a location of the user equipment.” The Office Action cited Elizondo to remedy these deficiencies of Knotts and Karlsson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, and 47 depend respectively from, and further limit claims 1, 19, 37, and 45. The deficiencies of the combination of Knotts and Karlsson with regard to claims 1, 19, 37, and 45 is discussed above, and Elizondo does not address the above-identified deficiencies of the combination of Knotts and Karlsson. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that each of claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, and 47 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the combination of Knotts, Karlsson, and

Elizondo. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, and 47 be withdrawn.

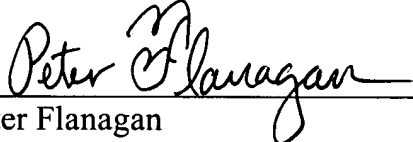
Elizondo generally relates to provision of short message services. As with Knotts and Karlsson, Elizondo is completely silent as to a multimedia messaging service or provision of a value added service via any kind of messaging service. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that even if Elizondo were combined with Knotts and Karlsson, the resultant combination would not disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Thus, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

For all the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-66 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 1-66 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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